

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 405

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

AN ACT

RELATING TO EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION; CREATING THE OFFICE OF
JUSTICE, LIBERTY AND PEACE; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES;
CREATING THE CITIZENS PEACE ADVISORY COUNCIL; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"Office of Justice, Liberty and Peace Act".

Section 2. PURPOSE.--The purpose of the Office of
Justice, Liberty and Peace Act is to establish an office
dedicated to peacemaking, conflict resolution training and the
study of conditions that are conducive to peace.

Section 3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Office of
Justice, Liberty and Peace Act:

A. "chief" means the chief of peace;

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underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 B. "council" means the citizens peace advisory
2 council; and

3 C. "office" means the office of justice, liberty
4 and peace.

5 Section 4. OFFICE ESTABLISHED.--The "office of justice,
6 liberty and peace" is created. The office shall be
7 administratively attached to the department of finance and
8 administration. For purposes of this section, the term
9 "administratively attached" means the same as specified in
10 Section 9-1-7 NMSA 1978.

11 Section 5. CHIEF--APPOINTMENT.--

12 A. The administrative head of the office is the
13 "chief of justice, liberty and peace", who shall be appointed
14 by the governor with the consent of the senate.

15 B. The chief shall have no fewer than fifty hours
16 of training in peacemaking, mediation, conflict resolution or
17 dialogue and at least one year of experience in applying these
18 skills in a community setting or equivalent life experience.

19 C. The chief shall serve and have all the duties,
20 responsibilities and authority of that office during the period
21 of time prior to final action by the senate confirming or
22 rejecting the appointment.

23 Section 6. CHIEF--GENERAL DUTIES.--

24 A. The chief is responsible to the governor for the
25 operation of the office. It is the chief's duty to manage all

1 operations of the office.

2 B. The chief shall:

3 (1) organize and participate in public
4 dialogues throughout the state, providing a diplomatic method
5 for addressing controversial issues and conflict;

6 (2) promote a sustainable, life-affirming and
7 just economy as an avenue to peace;

8 (3) analyze existing policies and develop new
9 approaches, in collaboration with established institutional and
10 agency efforts, for dealing with societal issues, including:

11 (a) spouse abuse, child abuse and
12 mistreatment of the elderly;

13 (b) drug and alcohol abuse;

14 (c) crime, punishment, rehabilitation
15 and pursuit of restorative justice;

16 (d) violence against animals;

17 (e) gun-related violence;

18 (f) school and gang violence;

19 (g) racial or ethnic violence and
20 violence against gays and lesbians; and

21 (h) disputes between the police and
22 community members;

23 (4) assist in establishing community-based
24 violence prevention programs, including violence prevention
25 counseling and peer mediation in schools;

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1 (5) promote counseling and community support
2 on behalf of victims of violence;

3 (6) provide for public education programs and
4 counseling strategies concerning hate crimes; and

5 (7) promote tolerance and understanding among
6 diverse groups of people.

7 Section 7. CHIEF--CONFLICT RESOLUTION DUTIES.--The chief
8 shall address and offer nonviolent conflict resolution
9 strategies on issues that threaten community well-being,
10 including racial and class tension and disputes concerning the
11 scarcity of food, water and other natural resources.

12 Section 8. CHIEF--MEDIA DUTIES.--The chief shall:

13 A. seek assistance in the design and implementation
14 of nonviolent policies from media professionals;

15 B. study the role of the media in the escalation
16 and recession of conflict and make the findings public; and

17 C. make recommendations to professional media
18 organizations to increase media awareness of peace-building
19 initiatives.

20 Section 9. CHIEF--EDUCATIONAL DUTIES.--The chief shall:

21 A. develop a peace education curriculum, which
22 shall include the study of:

23 (1) the civil rights movement in the United
24 States and throughout the world, with special emphasis on how
25 individual involvement has contributed to advancements in peace

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1 and justice; and

2 (2) peace agreements and circumstances in
3 which peaceful intervention has succeeded in stopping conflict;
4 and

5 B. cooperate with the secretary of public education
6 to develop curricula and make curricula available to school
7 districts to facilitate instruction in peaceful conflict
8 resolution and other peace education objectives at public
9 schools or any combination of public schools in a school
10 district.

11 Section 10. PERSONNEL.--The chief shall employ
12 professional and clerical assistance, contractors and general
13 counsel as deemed necessary and shall oversee staff performance
14 in:

15 A. peace education and training;
16 B. peace activities;
17 C. technology for peace; and
18 D. peaceful coexistence and nonviolent conflict
19 resolution.

20 Section 11. CHIEF--GENERAL DUTIES.--The chief shall
21 address and oversee staff performance in:

22 A. peace and education training, including:
23 (1) developing a peace education curriculum
24 and supporting materials for distribution to the public
25 education department;

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1 (2) providing peace education grants for the
2 creation and expansion of peace studies and programs; and

3 (3) creating a community peace block grant
4 program to provide grants to nonviolent conflict resolution
5 programs and local peace-building initiatives;

6 B. peace activities, including:

7 (1) developing alternatives for the treatment
8 of drug and alcohol abuse;

9 (2) initiating programs and building on
10 existing programs to prevent crime, including community
11 policing and peaceful settlement programs for police and other
12 public safety officers; and

13 (3) developing community-based strategies for
14 celebrating diversity and promoting tolerance;

15 C. assessing technology for peace, including
16 providing grants for the research and development of technology
17 in transportation, communication and energy sources that:

18 (1) are nonviolent in their application; and

19 (2) encourage the conservation and restoration
20 of natural resources to prevent future conflicts stemming from
21 resource scarcity and environmental contamination; and

22 D. peaceful coexistence and nonviolent conflict
23 resolution, including:

24 (1) publishing activities of the office and
25 encouraging scholarly participation;

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1 (2) gathering information on effective
2 community peace-building activities and disseminating the
3 information;

4 (3) researching the effect of violence in the
5 media and making the reports annually available to the public;
6 and

7 (4) holding conferences to create awareness of
8 the office's findings.

9 Section 12. COUNCIL--CREATION--MEMBERS--
10 RESPONSIBILITIES--COMPENSATION.--

11 A. The "citizens peace advisory council" is created
12 and shall be composed of the chief and seventeen appointed
13 members, who reflect the diversity of the people of New Mexico,
14 as follows:

15 (1) two office staff members, appointed by the
16 chief;

17 (2) three representatives from peace advocacy
18 organizations, appointed by the chief;

19 (3) three representatives from religious or
20 spiritual organizations, appointed by the chief;

21 (4) one representative from an environmental
22 organization, appointed by the secretary of environment;

23 (5) two representatives from local, county or
24 state law enforcement agencies, appointed by the secretary of
25 public safety;

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1 (6) one health professional with expertise in
2 behavioral and public health issues, appointed by the secretary
3 of health;

4 (7) one representative from an energy
5 conservation organization with expertise in alternative energy
6 use, appointed by the secretary of environment;

7 (8) two representatives affiliated with a
8 radio or television station or a print publication, appointed
9 by the chief; and

10 (9) two public school educators, appointed by
11 the secretary of public education.

12 B. The council shall select a chairperson, a vice
13 chairperson and other officers as it deems necessary.

14 C. The council shall meet no less than twice
15 annually and may meet more frequently upon the call of the
16 chairperson. The council shall:

17 (1) assist the office in organizing and
18 participating in public dialogues throughout the state;

19 (2) provide assistance and make
20 recommendations to the chief and the governor concerning
21 policies relating to peace and nonviolent conflict resolution;
22 and

23 (3) submit, annually, a report to the chief
24 and the governor reviewing the impact of state peace activities
25 on local governments and communities.

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